

CHEN et al.  
Appl. No. 10/730,382  
October 16, 2008

statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection.")

Applicant requests the USPTO to reconsider and allow this case.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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